

# **T** *RANSPORTATION* **NEWS**

February - March 2004

Volume 29 Number 5



## **Annual Summary profiles TxDOT**

**Highlights, pages 2-4**

## On the cover:

This highway scene from West Texas is how many drivers like to envision traffic congestion — there is none. Efforts to improve mobility and reduce traffic congestion are highlights of the 2003 TxDOT Annual Summary, now available online through the TxDOT homepage ([www.dot.state.tx.us](http://www.dot.state.tx.us)).

TxDOT photo by Griff Smith

## Contents

Straight Talk.....	2
Letter from the editor.....	2
Annual Summary highlights.....	3
2003 — by the numbers.....	4
Alarm for bridge.....	5
TxDOT Roundup.....	6
Letters.....	7
Service Awards.....	9
Retirements.....	11
Deaths.....	11
Calendar.....	11
Backtracks.....	Back Cover

**Transportation News** is published by the TxDOT Public Information Office  
125 E. 11th St., Austin, TX 78701-2483  
Phone: (512) 463-8588  
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Circulation: 18,531

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Copies of this publication have been deposited with the Texas State Library in compliance with the State Depository Law.

Printed on recycled paper  
by TxDOT, General Services Division



TNews Online (TxDOT computers only):  
<http://crossroads/org/pio/tnol.htm>

## Straight Talk

### Annual Summary highlights your work

by Mike Behrens

Executive Director

TxDOT has just produced its annual summary highlighting achievements of 2003. Check it out — that's because it's about what you did to help TxDOT succeed last year. It also outlines the challenges we face in the year ahead.

Because of its size, we are making TxDOT's annual summary of 2003 available to you through our intranet and the department's homepage on the Internet.

With passage of House Bill 3588 during the 78th session of the Texas Legislature last year, we have within our grasp a great opportunity to improve our transportation infrastructure.

More options now exist to help Texas cities, counties and state agencies work together to solve our worst transportation problems.

TxDOT and local governments can begin building now — years sooner than in times past — because we have additional funding tools we can use to improve mobility for all of Texas.

A great state needs great transportation. TxDOT will lead the way to ensure that transportation improvements enhance the quality of life for Texans. The annual summary highlights some of the many things we are doing to help make that happen. Check it out. ★

## Letter from the editor

Just about everyone likes a good story, whether it's an amusing anecdote, a page-turner of a novel or a compelling made-for-TV movie.

TxDOT also has a great story to tell. It's a story of getting things done for the people of Texas, from our traditional role of building and maintaining good highways to an archaeological dig to rescuing motorists from rising flood waters.

Unlike a good book or a movie, enjoying this story won't even cost you anything. It's right there on our Web site — [www.dot.state.tx.us](http://www.dot.state.tx.us). If you haven't already seen it, we invite you to take a look at the 36 pages of TxDOT's 2003 Annual Summary.

We won't give away the suspenseful ending (just kidding), but we have included in this issue of TNews a couple of pages of interesting tidbits taken from the full report.

★ ★ ★

Progress continues on the Trans-Texas Corridor. During February, TxDOT conducted public hearings in every one of our state's 254 counties. A few meetings also were added in March. A public-outreach effort on this scale is unprecedented in recent memory — and possibly unique in the department's history.

★ ★ ★

Finally, as alert readers probably have noticed, this is a combination February-March issue. We're pondering some changes in how often we publish TNews and have been busy planning. Speaking of schedules, be sure to take some time this spring to enjoy the wildflowers along our Texas highways.

— Mike Cox

# 2003 ANNUAL SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Implemented voter-approved financing tools to help build roads sooner and provide congestion relief faster
- ★ Set a record \$4 billion in contract letting for highway construction
- ★ Began the planning and public-involvement process for the Trans-Texas Corridor, a statewide transportation network that will improve mobility, safety and quality of life
- ★ Approved the state's first two regional mobility authorities, giving local governments a greater ability to improve mobility and traffic safety
- ★ Started construction on the 65-mile, \$2.9 billion Central Texas Turnpike Project
- ★ Continued project development for major corridor improvements such as I-35, I-69 and Ports-to-Plains
- ★ Worked to speed completion of critical highway projects by requiring the consideration of accelerated construction provisions on all projects disrupting traffic
- ★ Repaved more than 14 percent of the 79,000-plus mile state highway system
- ★ Carried out vital safety programs such as *Safe Routes to School* and AMBER Alert
- ★ Through a *Click It or Ticket* public-education campaign, helped raise safety belt use in the state's urban areas to nearly 90 percent, the highest level since safety belt laws went on the books in 1985
- ★ Continued to upgrade the state's 96 aging safety rest areas to provide safe and attractive locations for weary motorists to take a break from driving
- ★ Launched the *Drive Clean Across Texas* campaign, the nation's first statewide public outreach and education program designed to improve air quality
- ★ Continued as a leader in the use of alternative-fuel vehicles and spearheaded the effort to bring ultra-low sulfur diesel to Texas
- ★ Simplified and condensed many department documents and processes
- ★ Coordinated \$22 million in transportation research, making this program one of the largest in the country
- ★ Began a process to respond to new public transportation responsibilities related to health and human services
- ★ Said goodbye to 680 TxDOT employees who took advantage of a legislative retirement incentive

# Texas transportation — by the numbers

215.9 billion	Vehicle-miles traveled, total of all systems
9.9 billion	\$ Value of TxDOT construction projects under contract
5.4 billion	\$ TxDOT budget
363.8 million	\$ Value of TxDOT maintenance projects under contract
222.8 million	Vehicle miles traveled by public transportation
18.6 million	Motor vehicles registered in Texas
3.2 million	Travel Information Center customers
433,843	Cubic yards of compost used in roadway construction
301,797	Total miles (streets, roads, highways)
49,366	Trees and shrubs planted, landscaping projects
48,944	Number of Texas pilots
48,528	Bridges, total (on state system and off state system)
40,990	Farm-to-market roads, centerline miles
32,239	Bridges, on state system
16,309	Tons of recycled crumb rubber used in construction
16,289	Bridges, off state system
16,183	State highways, centerline miles
14,814	TxDOT employees (March 1, 2004)
12,109	U.S. highways, centerline miles
7,617	Miles adopted, Adopt-a-Highway program
3,233	Interstate highways, centerline miles
1,701	Maintenance projects under contract
1,163	Construction projects under contract
740	Picnic areas
300	Airports in the Texas Airport System
270	Tons of paper recycled
142	Toll roads, centerline miles
102	Safety rest areas
32	Auto-theft prevention grants awarded
1	Texas

■ Source: TxDOT 2003 Annual Summary, based on TxDOT Pocket Facts. ■ The latest issue of Pocket Facts is available at the TxDOT Web site: [www.dot.state.tx.us](http://www.dot.state.tx.us) ■ On-line directions: TxDOT home page: About TxDOT: Other Information: Pocket Facts



# Alarm helps secure Queen Isabella bridge

by Bill Powell

Public Information Office

Peace of mind and security mean a lot to the average person. That's why, when the TxDOT-designed collapse-detection alarm system was ready for service on the Queen Isabella Memorial Bridge in early March, many of the one million residents of the area and the two million tourists who visit South Padre Island every year had less reason to worry.

Formerly called the Queen Isabella Causeway, the bridge was re-named after the tragedy of Sept. 15, 2001, when two barges collided with the bridge's support columns.

The collision caused a gap in the roadway when a segment of the bridge collapsed. Eight people in vehicles on that suddenly opened road — unaware of looming disaster — rode to their deaths in the waters of Laguna Madre.

Since then, TxDOT has worked to create a system to safeguard the bridge from such accidents. Besides the alarm, the safety system includes concrete barriers called "dolphins." These are positioned in the water to protect the bridge supports and to divert any off-course boats or barges.

The alarm, the only one operational in Texas, will warn bridge users if a collapse occurs.

The new system, at a cost of \$900,000, has transportation agencies from other states calling it innovative. They're asking about possible uses in their jurisdictions.

As part of the alarm system, fiber-optic cable stretches 2.5 miles along the bridge's north side. The cable runs through mechanisms that can sever the cable and activate the

alarm if a bridge segment moves out of place.

If this occurs, the system would begin events to stop traffic on the bridge.

The bridge, equipped with gates that can block traffic at each end, also has electronic message boards that flash the urgent message, "Stop, Bridge Closed."

Red lights along both sides of the bridge flash their warning to motorists.

Signs in English and Spanish along the bridge warn motorists to stop immediately if the red lights are flashing.

"We got the brightest red digital lights we could and focused them directly at the roadway for maximum visibility," said Mark Blosschok, a special-projects engineer with TxDOT's Bridge Division.

He added, "We decided to have the lights flash in unison because the synchronized flash across the bridge denotes urgency, which is what we want if lives are in danger."

The system also alerts authorities such as the U.S. Coast Guard, law enforcement, and TxDOT.

Pharr District Engineer Mario Jorge underscores the danger in such a situation. He advises, "Stop if you see the red lights flashing. Turn emergency flashers on and stay in your vehicle until authorities come and tell you how to proceed."

Final tests in February determined the warning system was ready for use.

Alice Gray, a tourist from Louisiana, had to cancel a vacation to Padre Island planned in October 2001. "I knew where the bridge fell, so even after it was fixed I was a lit-



TxDOT photo by Amy Rodriguez

**Jody Ellington, Pharr District's bridge engineer, played a key role in designing the alarm system now in place on the Queen Isabella Memorial Bridge (in background). He credits many others in TxDOT: "Designing the system was a challenge, but we had a great staff working on the design. We were able to come up with a system that enhances the bridge's safety."**

tle nervous crossing that area of the bridge," she says. She adds, "I think the alarm is a good idea."

Louis Dalhart helps manage a Padre Island motel. He uses the bridge almost daily commuting to his job. "I have friends who used to worry about another accident," he says, "so the new alarm makes them feel safer." He adds, "I haven't even minded having to stop on my way to work while the bridge was closed for testing."

Last year, Pharr District supervised the \$5.8 million installation of the concrete dolphins that protect the bridge supports.

This year, TxDOT will oversee installation of 20 more dolphins, costing another \$5.8 million, to protect supports on the bridge's north side. ☼



**TxDOT's Wildflower Hotline — where Texas blossoms**

**800-452-9292**



## TxDOT Roundup

### PROGRAM TRANSFERS TO TxDOT

TxDOT on March 1 took over the state's Medical Transportation Program. Formerly administered by the Texas Department of Health, the \$29.4 million program and its staff of 169 positions became part of TxDOT. Last year, the program served nearly 132,000 Medicaid clients. For such clients, the program arranges transportation to and from health-care services.

Legislation passed last session mandated the transfer as a way to reduce overlapping services, to cut costs and to increase efficiencies.

Texans who rely on this program will see no interruption or change of service because of the transfer. Eligible recipients must have a current Medicaid identification card, be eligible for the Children with Special Health Care Needs or Transportation for Indigent Cancer Patients programs, and must have no other means of transportation.

### KEENER LEADS CHILDRESS

Terry L. Keener was appointed Childress district engineer in mid-February. He oversees TxDOT operations in the 13-county district. He had served as the district's director of operations, a position he held since 1997.

Keener began his TxDOT career in 1971 as an engineering assistant in the Childress District. Since then, he held a variety of posts in the district including director of administration (1987) and interim district engineer (1997).

He received a graduate degree in civil engineering in 1971 from Texas A&M University. In 1998 he received the Gib Gilchrist Award, presented by the Texas Transportation Institute. The Childress Rotary Club last year honored him as its Rotarian of the year.

### NELSON PLANS TO RETIRE

Joe H. Nelson III, who has been the Wichita Falls district engineer since November 1998, has

announced his retirement, effective March 31.

He joined TxDOT in 1966 as a summer hire in Corsicana's engineering office. He began full time with the department as an engineering assistant in the Design Division in 1970 and became a design engineer in 1974. He held a variety of posts since then, including a brief stint in the private sector. He also had served as deputy district engineer of the Waco District, being named to the post in 1993.

### SURVEY SAMPLES EMPLOYEES

TxDOT again is taking part in the University of Texas Survey of Organizational Excellence with 20 percent of the department's employees being invited to respond.

Sponsored by the university's School of Social Work, the survey is designed to find out what employees think about their organization.

TxDOT Executive Director Mike Behrens, in a February memo, said the survey results would be distributed to districts, divisions and offices this spring. He said the survey will help the department plan ways to improve services for employees and for the public.

### LAREDO'S NEW TRAFFIC SYSTEM

During a ceremony Feb. 4, the TxDOT Laredo District "turned on" the South Texas Regional Advanced Transportation Information System, also known as STRATIS. Costing \$1.7 million, the system includes special equipment and a traffic-management center to monitor video and other sensors. With the system, the district can better respond to highway incidents and provide information on traffic conditions to motorists.

### TEAM WINS LEAD AWARD

Recipients of the 2003 Motor Carrier Division's LEAD Award have been named. For the first time, the award is going to a team — staff members of the division's former

Compliance and Enforcement Branch.

Recognized are Robert Beck (retired), Pat Biddle, Michael Dewbre, Terence Donovan, Stephanie Early, Mike Ellis, Mark Fetzer, Bobby Margo, Bill Moorhouse, Richard Norwood, Phil Pettit, Larry Simcox, Doug Simmons, Marcelo Perez, Chasity Vasquez, Homer Vasquez, Raul Vela and Susie Ward. Perez is the first in the division to win the award a second time.

Since 1998 the award has recognized division employees and district permit coordinators who exemplify the qualities of leadership, enthusiasm, attitude and determination — thus, LEAD Award.

Recipients this year showed commitment to these qualities as they worked to reduce the backlog of motor-carrier applications from 30 days to 11 days.

### AWARDS SPOTLIGHT SAFETY

The American Advertising Federation, through its local ADDY awards, has recognized TxDOT's traffic-safety program in the Austin area. Two gold, one silver and two bronze awards were presented for TxDOT-sponsored traffic-safety campaigns created by Sherry Matthews Advocacy Marketing in Austin. The campaigns now are eligible for regional, then national recognition.

### BLOOD DONORS DRAW PRAISE

The Central Texas Blood and Tissue Center in Austin reports that TxDOT was first among other state agencies in the Capitol area with the most employees who gave blood in 2003 — 263 units.

TxDOT administrators credited individual donors and members of the department's Employee Advisory Committee who volunteer to work the blood drives. Volunteers also include the 31 TxDOT coordinators in Austin who help round up donors for blood drives. ★



## ATLANTA DISTRICT

From: Jill & Tom Chinn  
Longview, Texas

We had a flat tire in Atlanta. It was late, we were tired and we needed help. We heard the flat as we pulled into a gas station and your employee, **Jason Waters**, was there. He helped us get the tire changed and would not take any money. He said that he worked for the Texas Department of Transportation and that he was just doing his job. What a blessing he was to us! I just wanted you to know what a fine man you have representing you. And again — many thanks, Jason.

*Jason Waters is a maintenance technician with the Atlanta District's New Boston maintenance section.*



## CHILDRESS DISTRICT

From: Virginia and Luther Cox  
New York

Just a note to tell you what a "treasure" you have with an employee named **Barry Atkinson**. My husband and I had a flat tire on our drive to Dallas; Barry stopped his truck, kept his "blinking" lights on, and proceeded to help my husband change the tire. Barry was friendly, courteous, and professional — a credit to your department. He was a pleasure to meet.

*Barry Atkinson is a maintenance technician in Dickens County.*



## YOAKUM DISTRICT

From: Bobby Jones  
Southern Towing Co.  
Memphis, Tenn.

I would like to commend **Ed Price** for the assistance he gave recently to our employee Troy

Gammill, mate on our motor vessel **Mary Elizabeth**. Mr. Gammill's mother had passed away that day and Mr. Price was very helpful in offering his assistance to secure transportation to the airport for Mr. Gammill. Mr. Price went above and beyond the call of duty. On behalf of Mr. Gammill, the captain and crew of the M/V **Mary Elizabeth**, and myself, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the assistance Mr. Price offered in this situation.

*Ed Price has been employed with TxDOT in the Yoakum District for the past 19 years as a bridge tender at the Sargent swing bridge in Matagorda County.*



## LUBBOCK DISTRICT

From: Ralph Dennis  
Big Spring, Texas

My wife and I were driving north on Highway 87, just north of Tahoka and within 100 yards of the Texas Department of Transportation maintenance facility, when our vehicle suffered a flat, which destroyed the tire.

After surveying the problem, I undertook to change the tire. Within a very few minutes, two men in two pickups came along on the access road and stopped to render aid. They just took over the task, and within a few minutes it was completed, and we were able to continue our trip to Lubbock.

I know that one of the men is a DOT employee, because he was driving one of your pickups. I am under the impression that the other is also, for they seemed to know each other. I foolishly failed to get their names, and I am sure they are not aware of the magnitude of the service they performed — to them it was only a tire change. Following are some facts they do not know.

## SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT

From: Edwin Plowman  
Boerne, Texas

Your courtesy patrol provided me with assistance. As an individual with a handicap, this service was extremely helpful. The side of Interstate 10 during rush hour is a dangerous place. The courtesy patrol not only got me back on the road much quicker than I could have, but greatly reduced the rubberneck effect that is so common.

In their rush, the TxDOT employees put their efforts into solving my problem instead of explaining who they were or why they were helping. It was only afterward that they explained the courtesy patrol. I offered a gratuity for their efforts, but they politely refused — just happy to help.

All I can say is Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

*Robert Pena and Ronald Johanningsmeir assisted this motorist. They work with the courtesy patrol section at Transguide, the intelligent transportation system in the San Antonio District.*

I am 69 years old. Approximately two years ago, due to cardiovascular disease, I had to undergo triple-bypass surgery, and will live the rest of my life with a heart that is not "as good as new." As a very small child I had an accident which left me with a permanent walking disability. As a result of the long-term consequences that injury caused, I now have a collapsed disk in my lower back, and if I attempt to stand or be active on my feet more than a few minutes I am in incredible pain. In addition,

■ See Mail Drop, Page 8





## Mail Drop

Continued from Page 7

I was still weak from a recent severe encounter with the flu virus. Those two angels of mercy saved my life — possibly literally.

A very grateful “thank you” to these two men, and to the Texas Department of Transportation. From now on, when I see TxDOT personnel and equipment on our roads and highways I will salute, and offer a prayer of thanksgiving.

*Francisco Aguillar, who works in the Lubbock District, is one of the two men to help this grateful motorist. The second man mentioned in this letter is with the Tahoka Police Department.*

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### LUFKIN DISTRICT

From: Joe Evelyn Cook  
Jasper, Texas

I was traveling through construction about five miles south of Milam. Something sharp tore a large gash in one of my tires. A highway employee took the tire off and put the “doughnut” tire on for me. Another employee told me he would walk back to see what ruined my tire so that this would not happen to another driver. Because of the employees, I was able to travel the 12 miles to Hemphill to get a new tire. I do appreciate this kind assistance.

*Ronnie McClelland and Zachary Mott, both from the Sabine County maintenance office in TxDOT's Lufkin District, provided help to this motorist.*

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### ODESSA DISTRICT

From: Liz and Paul Hassall  
Warminster, Pa.

In early January, I had a problem with my travel trailer on Interstate 10 at the 297-mile marker. That is in the middle of nowhere with the

wind blowing at about 25 miles per hour and the temperature at about 20. Lying under my rig was cold — to say the least.

After about 15 minutes, one of your TxDOT workers stopped by and helped, which was greatly appreciated. His name is **Sam Jackson**.

After we made the repairs, I tried to offer him some money, which he refused! Wow! — was I surprised.

He saved our bacon. Our thanks to Sam and TxDOT for all the help and hospitality.

*Samuel F. Jackson is a maintenance technician in the Odessa District's Iraan Maintenance Section.*

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### EL PASO DISTRICT

From: Margaret Benson  
Kerrville, Texas

My husband and I were returning home after a visit to Big Bend National Park. We were on Highway 385 between Marathon and Fort Stockton when we realized that the car caddy, behind our RV, had a tire blow out.

Fortunately it was daylight, conditions were good, and we were in a relatively flat area in which to take care of this situation. As we are familiar with this stretch of the highway, and knowing help may not be close by, we were pleased to see that a TxDOT crew was out working in the area at that time. Your men graciously came by to check on us and offer us their assistance, but we appreciatively declined, feeling that we had the situation under control.

Unfortunately, we discovered soon after that taking the tire off would be a much slower process than we had anticipated. My husband certainly needed a better and stronger helper than me at this moment.

As luck would have it, one of your employees, a very helpful young man named **Abel Galindo**, circled back by to check on us. Without batting an eye, Abel jumped out of his truck and came over and helped my husband take the ruined tire off the trailer in a flash.

When we asked where we might find a replacement tire, as we had none with us, he recommended a couple of businesses in Fort Stockton.

So, it is with gratitude that I am writing to commend this fine young man. He came to our aid willingly and helpfully. We don't find ourselves in this predicament very often, but how nice it is to have help available when you need it.

*Abel Galindo works in the Alpine Maintenance Section in the El Paso District.*

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### MOTOR CARRIER DIVISION

From: Mike Stevenson  
Detroit Edison  
Detroit, Mich.

I just want to take the time to thank **Curtis Wagner** and his team on a great job with assisting Detroit Edison and Mammoet on a permit issue for the movement of a transformer in Brownsville, Texas.

All team members were professional and very helpful to assist with the permit process.

The unit will be returning from Mexico to Brownsville one more time in April. Your assistance on the return will be needed. Again, Detroit Edison appreciates the teamwork of TxDOT and Curtis Wagner.

*This letter first was sent to Mike Behrens, TxDOT's executive director. Curtis Wagner is permit branch manager with the Motor Carrier Division in Austin. ★*





## OCTOBER 2003

### 20 years

Marilyn Tuley – Traffic Operations Division

## FEBRUARY 2004

### 40 years

Jesus Montes – Laredo

### 35 years

Thomas W. Wilson – Austin  
Joseph L. Grimes Jr. – Dallas  
Robert W. Gray Jr. – Houston

### 30 years

Tyree Jones – Abilene  
Lloyd S. Eveland – Construction  
Francisco H. Ruiz – El Paso  
Janelle H. Gbur – Houston  
Albert M. McCarty – Houston  
Rodolfo V. Moreno – Lubbock  
Fred D. Hunter – Paris  
Juan Billalobos Jr. – San Antonio  
Patrick L. Irwin – San Antonio  
Pamela M. Arnold – Vehicle Titles and Registration  
Ruth H. Howard – Vehicle Titles and Registration

### 25 years

Robert Almanza – Abilene  
Charles B. Freshcoln – Corpus Christi  
Reynaldo M. Galvan – Corpus Christi  
Calvin S. Townes Jr. – Finance  
Timothy W. White – Fort Worth  
Judy D. Brzymialkiewicz – Houston  
Teresa S. Chambers – Odessa  
Billy L. Cotton – Odessa  
Demetrio Pineda – Odessa  
Roberto Flores Jr. – Pharr  
Roberto P. Hernandez – Pharr  
Deborah S. Skelton – Pharr  
Jesse L. Williams – San Angelo  
Joann G. Kirkland – Traffic  
Diane E. Counts – Vehicle Titles and Registration  
Mary H. Davenport – Vehicle Titles and Registration  
Darrell L. Jones – Waco  
Bobby A. Pollard – Waco  
Michael R. Sellers – Waco  
Stephen J. Werner – Yoakum

### 20 years

Howard K. Middleton – Abilene  
Harvey D. Davis – Amarillo  
Dacio Marin III – Bridge  
Billy W. Johnson – Bryan  
Elizabeth S. Boswell – Construction  
Maria G. Hernandez – Corpus Christi  
Tommy J. Raymond – Dallas  
Aurora Meza – Design  
Belinda N. Carter – Fort Worth  
Anthony E. Hoots – Fort Worth  
Silvio J. Romero – General Services  
Carolyn A. Bednar-Wood – Houston  
Deborah H. Chapa – Houston  
Cecil R. Davis – Houston  
Melvin M. Duhon – Houston  
Ronald E. Fielder – Houston  
Douglas G. Stephens – Houston  
Betsy T. McCasland – Lubbock  
Jose L. Ramirez – Lubbock  
Jerry L. Williams – Lubbock  
Deborah J. Denton – Paris  
Bobby G. Littlefield Jr. – Paris  
Clint P. Rodriguez – San Antonio  
Bernard H. Copeland – Tyler  
John C. Daugherty – Tyler  
John J. Kalalau – Tyler  
Douglas L. Fleming – Waco  
Guy M. Wardlow – Waco  
Ronnie L. Montgomery – Wichita Falls  
Jimmy C. Thomas – Wichita Falls  
Frederick R. Lerma – Yoakum

### 15 years

Gary R. Keel – Atlanta  
Mcartis Price Jr. – Atlanta

Russell L. Davenport – Austin  
Phillip E. Morris – Austin  
Paul A. Warden – Bryan  
Jose Gaytan Jr. – Corpus Christi  
Charles W. Gunn Jr. – Corpus Christi  
Richard A. Carrier – Dallas  
Michael D. Hainline – Dallas  
David L. Boswell – Design  
Allison D. Perez – El Paso  
Ricardo Romero – El Paso  
Michael B. Szurgot – Fort Worth  
Ronald C. Tate – Fort Worth  
Carlton J. Allen – Houston  
David M. Eng – Houston  
Roberto Mascardo – Houston  
Aide E. Morrow – Houston  
Amir H. Mosaffa – Houston  
Richard R. Murr – Houston  
Jo Ellen\* Stokes – Houston  
Marilyn L. Barrows – Information Systems  
Armando Leyva – Information Systems  
Allan J. Tucker – Information Systems  
Wesley G. Carter – Lubbock  
Gary E. McLendon – Lubbock  
Alice S. Carmona – Motor Vehicle  
Winfred H. McQueen – Paris  
Samuel Ballesteros – Pharr  
David Garcia Jr. – Pharr  
Martin M. Hernandez – Pharr  
Joe F. Mendez – Pharr  
Robert W. Briggs – Right of Way  
Melvin T. Farrow – San Antonio  
Marvin S. Wright – Traffic Operations  
Lois D. Johnson – Travel  
Jeffery A. Russell – Tyler

### 10 years

Kenneth E. Bearden – Atlanta  
Lisa G. Hughes – Atlanta  
Tony R. Johnson – Atlanta  
Jo E. Norwood – Atlanta  
Cody R. Chambliss – Austin  
John A. Delgado – Austin  
Logan L. Ketron – Austin  
Jerry L. Lawrence – Austin  
Michael A. McNabb – Austin  
Edward A. Till – Austin  
Jack O. Tucker – Austin  
David A. Wiemers – Austin  
Barbara S. Young – Beaumont  
Kent W. Steger – Bridge  
Wesley G. Baxter – Brownwood  
Kristi E. Behler – Brownwood  
James M. Moss – Brownwood  
Michael K. Poe – Brownwood  
Harold Brown – Childress  
Gregory L. Urbanczyk – Childress  
James E. Love – Construction  
Ronald B. Stuckey – Corpus Christi  
Raquel S. Vos – Dallas  
Javier Cordova – El Paso  
Roberto Hernandez – El Paso  
Antonio B. Loya – El Paso  
Raphael C. Thorn – Finance  
Stephen D. Bone – Fort Worth  
Ronald B. Nodine – Fort Worth  
Cesar P. Karel – General Services  
Bryan C. Whittaker – General Services  
Dallas W. Champion – Houston  
Cody L. McKenney – Houston  
Nnamdi R. Ogbonna – Houston  
James M. Rippard – Houston  
Keith L. Davis – Information Services  
Coby C. Chase – Legislative Affairs  
Charles A. Dunn – Lubbock  
Lester C. Fennell – Lubbock  
Alvin T. Gladden – Lubbock  
Feliciano B. Villarreal Jr. – Lubbock  
Dreux C. Land – Lufkin  
Jerry L. McCloud – Lufkin  
Joel D. Thompson – Motor Carrier  
John L. Barajas – Motor Vehicle  
Juan F. Barbosa – Motor Vehicle  
Deryl S. Creekmur – Occupational Safety  
John A. Darter – Paris  
Tausha B. Davis – Paris  
Wilbert L. Owens Jr. – Paris  
Raul E. Lopez – Pharr  
Cecil Saldana – Pharr  
David Valdez – Traffic Operations  
James W. Applegate – Tyler  
Robert W. Bobbitt – Tyler  
Vicky L. Brubaker – Tyler  
Edward L. Jimenez – Tyler  
Deborah W. Burleson – Waco  
Moses Gonzales – Wichita Falls  
Shirley J. Hrabovsky – Yoakum  
Francis L. Klekar – Yoakum  
Donna M. Steffek – Yoakum

### 5 years

Christopher L. McDaniel – Abilene  
Phillip A. Bergt – Atlanta  
Christopher G. Caddell – Austin  
David Caldera – Austin  
Sheran L. Campbell – Austin  
Harry A. Lorton – Aviation  
Mark J. Dionne – Beaumont  
Bradley J. Rosetta – Beaumont  
John G. Delphia – Bridge  
Lee C. Ellison – Bryan  
Willie F. McAdams – Bryan  
Johnny R. Moffett – Bryan  
Ronald T. Gilbert Jr. – Childress  
Brenda F. Rowland – Childress  
John W. Johnson – Commission  
Keith D. Burgin – Construction  
Robert G. Isassi – Corpus Christi  
Dennis J. Myers – Corpus Christi  
Maria M. Sugarek – Corpus Christi  
Jimmie L. Allen – Dallas  
Wendy G. Dalton – Dallas  
Sherrelle R. Diggs – Dallas  
Camille Thomason – Design  
Alfredo Gonzalez – El Paso  
John C. Cannady – Fort Worth  
Kimberly G. Dow – Fort Worth  
Joanna Gentry – Fort Worth  
Billy W. Landry – Fort Worth  
Curtis E. Myers – Fort Worth  
Lewis L. Seales – Fort Worth  
Andrew O. Wasson – Fort Worth  
Kenneth A. Stewart – General Counsel  
Virginia C. Conol – Houston  
Mark J. Koscielsky – Houston  
Jo Anne Otten – Houston  
Patricia A. Richardson – Houston  
Curtis L. Talley – Houston  
Zhi Qiang Lu – Information Systems  
Dwight H. Miles – Information Systems  
Hector Canales – Laredo  
Patricia A. Fulghum – Laredo  
Alejandro Morales – Laredo  
Juan Ramirez – Laredo  
Fernando J. Salazar – Laredo  
Thomas V. Smith – Lufkin  
Francisco J. Cruz – Lubbock  
Stacey Young – Lubbock  
A.D. Bell – Paris  
Toby L. Godfrey – Paris  
Anthony L. McGovern – Paris  
Rocky L. Young – Paris  
Robert J. MacHeska – Pharr  
John D. Bryant – San Antonio  
Bracey M. Keeney – San Antonio  
Juan A. Lopez – San Antonio  
Jesse G. Ollerbidez – San Antonio  
Gina M. Salazar – San Antonio  
Cheryl D. Erskine – Trans. Planning & Programming  
Betty Hohensee – Trans. Planning & Programming  
John E. Windlow – Traffic Operations  
Gloria V. Galvan – Vehicle Titles and Registration  
Glenn J. Kalina – Yoakum  
Allen D. Polonsky Jr. – Yoakum  
Harold N. Pyatt Jr. – Yoakum

■ See Service Awards, Page 10



# Service Awards

Continued from Page 9

## MARCH 2004

### 40 years

James D. Russell – Waco

### 35 years

Dearl E. Walters – Beaumont

Phyllis C. Bates – Odessa

### 30 years

Burl E. Holmes – Houston

Charles H. Parr – Information Services

Joe B. Barnard – Motor Carrier

Tommie E. Cox – Paris

William D. Shaffer – Trans. Planning & Programming

Charles D. Snider – Waco

### 25 years

Lynne A. Jones – Amarillo

Tommy F. Treadaway – Brownwood

Kenneth D. Fowler – Childress

Jose D. Corvalan – Houston

Isaac P. Lucio – Houston

David W. Kinser – Lubbock

Arnoldo Cortez – Pharr

Dennis W. Wilde – San Angelo

Mary W. Kee – Tyler

William W. Walker – Waco

Maxine C. Brugger – Yoakum

Junius R. Johnson II – Yoakum

### 20 years

Nick W. Durfey – Amarillo

Bobby J. Pulliam – Amarillo

Michael W. Taylor – Amarillo

Robert E. Lansdale – Atlanta

Paula M. Bishir – Audit

Janet Miley – Austin

John L. Whitney – Brownwood

Arturo Morin – Corpus Christi

Adelmira S. Garcia – Design

Arturo Gutierrez – El Paso

Deborah G. Bodiford – Fort Worth

James N. Whitehead – Fort Worth

Craig S. Mason – General Services

Curtis W. Reinert – General Services

Lloyd E. Dumont Jr. – Houston

Edgar Harris – Houston

Alan K. Hohle – Houston

Alfred L. Jones – Houston

Charles P. McLachlan – Houston

George R. Nichols – Houston

Kelly J. Petru – Houston

Paula H. Nichols – Information Services

Bennie C. Pridgon – Information Services

Carlos Flores – Lubbock

Tommy M. Stevens – Lubbock

Ruben G. Molina – Odessa

Delbert L. Gann – Paris

Roy Harper Jr. – Paris

Bobby G. Littlefield Jr. – Paris

James E. Meals Jr. – Paris

Juan C. Ramirez – Pharr

Rickey L. Hanks – San Antonio

Darren B. Marty – San Antonio

John E. Spencer Jr. – San Antonio

Karen S. Gibson – Traffic Operations

John C. Lowry – Travel

Tonji B. Rudd – Travel

Diana B. Caskey – Vehicle Titles & Registration

David L. Bitner – Waco

Kristi L. Kubitz – Waco

### 15 years

John W. Bowen – Austin

Jacqueline A. Magill – Austin

Don E. Watson – Austin

John F. Greer – Aviation

Edie M. Stimach – Aviation

Elton L. Brown Jr. – Bridge

Marcus J. Galvan – Bridge

Richard L. Cook – Brownwood

Donna K. Garrison – Childress

Kenneth J. Warren – Childress

Robert L. Sarcinella – Construction

Edward Bernal – Corpus Christi

Lester W. Caraway – Corpus Christi

Horacio Fernandez – El Paso

Jack H. Hobson – Fort Worth

Don R. Singleton – Fort Worth

Chad O. Burks – Houston

Dwayne D. Gajewski – Houston

Juanita L. Gilbert – Houston

Pamela C. Hasker – Houston

Leslie S. Howard – Houston

Michael S. McCoy – Houston

Matthew K. Nguyen – Houston

Kenneth B. Paradowski – Houston

Olivia Williams Smart – Houston

Madjid Benchouia – Information Services

David L. Harper – Lubbock

Regan T. McNeely – Lubbock

James W. Burton – Odessa

Javier B. Guevara – Odessa

David L. Prather – Odessa

Jolita S. Norris – Paris

John F. Reed – Right of Way

Kyle M. Abbott – San Angelo

Sara F. Gilbert – San Angelo

Arthur D. Welborn – San Angelo

William A. Chancellor – San Antonio

Victoria L. Lessing – San Antonio

Jan M. Autry – Travel

Robert E. Small – Traffic Operations

Frances M. Dehaven – Vehicle Titles & Registration

Bruce A. Stewart – Waco

### 10 years

Ty W. Fraser – Abilene

John T. Matthies – Abilene

Steve M. Roth – Abilene

Ellen R. Ball – Atlanta

Aubrey G. Hill – Atlanta

Amy M. Russell – Atlanta

Christopher G. Vaughn – Austin

Sheri D. Quinlan – Aviation

Diana L. Evans – Beaumont

David M. Blume – Bridge

Kent W. Steger – Bridge

Stephanie E. Williams – Bridge

David E. Brooks – Brownwood

Louis A. Coronado – Brownwood

Thomas S. Greer – Brownwood

Jerry L. Allison – Childress

Billy S. Elliott – Childress

Carlos R. Carrillo – Corpus Christi

Paula Ditzzenberger – Corpus Christi

Ignacio Guajardo Jr. – Corpus Christi

James E. Jennings – Corpus Christi

Martha J. Ondrej – Corpus Christi

Brian D. Skinner – Corpus Christi

Martin D. Brookhart – Dallas

Ghassan A. Khankarili – Dallas

William R. Laird – Dallas

Roy A. Vargas – Dallas

Gloria C. Carbajal – El Paso

Rebecca S. Puckett – El Paso

Wallace E. Rennels – Fort Worth

Carlos Vasquez Jr. – Fort Worth

Samuel J. Reyes – General Services

Margie L. Edwards – Houston

Debra D. Francis – Houston

Debbi K. Cooke – HRD

Clifford G. Bell – Lufkin

Eldon T. Hockensmith – Lufkin

Harvey E. Horace – Lufkin

Richard S. Howell – Lufkin

Johnny K. Johnson Jr. – Lufkin

Timothy E. Shown – Lufkin

Anthony Bustos – Odessa

Jesus I. Garcia – Odessa

Elton E. Haynes – Odessa

Todd S. Prestien – Paris

Joel Garcia – Pharr

Maria I. Mata – Pharr

Eduardo Ramirez – Pharr

Filiberto Valderas Jr. – Pharr

Armando Zamarripa – Pharr

Waylan L. Ensor – San Angelo

Walter J. Alexander – San Antonio

Randall C. Grones – San Antonio

Troy A. Magers – San Antonio

Barrynn J. West Jr. – San Antonio

Orlando V. Jandre Jr. – Traffic Operations

David A. Messineo – Trans. Planning & Programming

Robert E. Wellauer – Trans. Planning & Programming

Nola P. McKey – Travel

Brenda A. Moum – Travel

Jose X. Paz – Travel

Paula K. Lancaster – Vehicle Titles & Registration

Susan F. Sampson – Vehicle Titles & Registration

Robert W. Tanner – Vehicle Titles & Registration

Bradley J. Nors – Waco

Thomas E. Polansky – Waco

Billy H. Pendergrass – Wichita Falls

Jose M. Villastrigo – Wichita Falls

### 5 years

Max W. Blau – Amarillo

Dwayne A. Gidden – Amarillo

Ryan T. Milakovich – Amarillo

Jerry E. Eaves – Atlanta

Lonnie R. Spunaugle – Atlanta

David A. Ray – Austin

Michael D. Adams – Beaumont

Rawetts T. Baaheth – Beaumont

Chris L. Maas – Beaumont

Kenneth W. Prejean Jr. – Beaumont

Sean W. Parker – Bryan

Robert A. Reagan – Bryan

Natividad R. Olvera – Construction

Cedric A. Franco – Corpus Christi

Christopher P. Bond – Dallas

Tim E. Bridgeman – Dallas

Miles E. Hicks – Dallas

Jennifer L. Book – Design

Luping Yi – Design

Adan Avila – El Paso

Susan M. McClenahan – Environmental Affairs

Alireza Momenzadeh – Fort Worth

Michael A. Ploeger – General Services

Raquel M. Carter – General Services

Antonio O. Hernandez – General Services

Melba A. Alfred – Houston

Muhammad K. Ali – Houston

Kenneth N. Chism – Houston

Richard W. Gerber – Houston

Eric S. Hill – Houston

Georgina Hoopo – Houston

Clay E. McCullough III – Houston

Indra Pannila – Houston

Lena A. Polott – Houston

Tabitha A. Rowe – Houston

Cecil E. Sullivan – Houston

Veronica Acevedo – Human Resources

Juan D. Moreno – Laredo

Alberto R. Sosa – Laredo

Larry Alvarado – Lubbock

Bobby G. Campbell – Lubbock

Brad R. Grisham – Lubbock

Roland C. Marshall – Lufkin

Francisco X. Monroy – Lufkin

Roseanne Graham – Motor Carrier

Olivia N. Thompson – Motor Vehicle

Rosa C. Gonzales – Odessa

John D. Nichols – Paris

Ellen E. Perry – Paris

Lloyd D. Slagle – Paris

David Quiroga – Pharr

David F. Aguirre – San Angelo

Daniel Martinez – San Angelo

Robert P. Huron – San Antonio

Jose C. Mendez – San Antonio

Juan O. Trejo – San Antonio

Gregory S. Usavage – San Antonio

Daniel L. Mullis – Travel

Troy W. Hargrove – Tyler

Linda L. Friar – Vehicle Titles & Registration

John A. Stansell – Vehicle Titles & Registration

Roger E. Kaska – Waco

Michael A. Janssen – Yoakum

Alvin A. Vasek Jr. – Yoakum

## Retirements

**DECEMBER 2003**  
**Atlanta District**  
 Dorothy O. Williams  
 23 years

**Bryan District**  
 Steve M. Simecek  
 23 years

**Information Systems Division**  
 Caye L. Cox  
 22 years

**Motor Vehicle Division**  
 Wanda K. Anderson  
 19 years

**Pharr District**  
 Frank Miller Jr.  
 37 years

**Research and Technology Implementation**  
 Saralind H. Mings  
 5 years

**San Antonio District**  
 David S. Sauer  
 16 years

Margie N. Wall  
 22 years

Kenneth H. Wilson  
 26 years

**Transportation Planning and Programming**  
 Virginia G. Anderson  
 30 years

**Waco District**  
 Linzie B. Wheat Jr.  
 18 years

**Wichita Falls District**  
 Jerry D. Morgan  
 17 years

**Yoakum District**  
 Johnny J. Luna  
 27 years

Pearlie A. Bushong  
 24 years

**JANUARY 2004**  
**Abilene District**  
 Heriberto Sarinana  
 19 years

**Austin District**  
 Jimmy C. Gibson  
 21 years

Myron L. McKelvey  
 30 years

**Beaumont District**  
 Robert C. Carter  
 8 years

**Dallas District**  
 Kenneth Barger  
 19 years

**Fort Worth District**  
 Gary L. Spelce  
 21 years

**Houston District**  
 Louis R. Leblanc  
 33 years

**Laredo District**  
 Pedro Mosqueda  
 9 years

**San Antonio District**  
 Arnulfo T. Garcia  
 30 years

Margaret G. Smith  
 30 years

Oscar H. Resendez  
 7 years

**Traffic Operations**  
 Janie P. Light  
 27 years

**Transportation Planning and Programming**  
 Susan A. Miller  
 27 years

## Calendar

**2004**  
**MARCH**  
**25**  
**29-31**

Commission Meeting, Austin  
 2004 Construction & Pavement Conference, San Antonio, CST  
 Cesar Chavez Day (optional holiday)

**31**

**APRIL**  
**3**

Don't Mess with Texas Trash-off, Statewide, TRV  
 Bid Letting, Austin, CST  
 Good Friday (optional holiday)  
 Texas Aviation Conference, Austin, AVN

**7-8**

**9**

**14-16**

**21**

**27-28**

**29**

San Jacinto Day (skeleton crew holiday)  
 Statewide Maintenance & Traffic Operations Conference, Waco, MNT/TRF  
 Commission Meeting, Waco

**MAY**  
**11-12**  
**27**  
**31**

Bid Letting, Austin, CST  
 Commission Meeting, Austin  
 Memorial Day (holiday)

**JUNE**  
**1-4**

**7-10**

**8-9**

**14-17**

**24**

Transportation Planning Conference, Houston, TPP  
 Research Management Committee Meeting, Austin, RTI  
 Bid Letting, Austin, CST  
 2004 Design & Bridge Conference, Houston, DES/BRG  
 Commission Meeting, Austin

**JULY**  
**8-9**  
**14**

**29**

Bid Letting, Austin, CST  
 Research Oversight Committee Meeting, Austin, RTI  
 Commission Meeting, Childress

**AUGUST**  
**10-11**  
**26**  
**27**

Bid Letting, Austin, CST  
 Commission Meeting, Austin  
 LBJ's Birthday (skeleton crew holiday)

**SEPTEMBER**

**6**

**9-10**

**16**

**17**

**30**

Labor Day (holiday)  
 Bid Letting, Austin, CST  
 Rosh Hashanah (optional holiday)  
 Rosh Hashanah (optional holiday)  
 Commission Meeting, Austin

**OCTOBER**  
**14-15**  
**28**

Bid Letting, Austin, CST  
 Commission Meeting, Austin

The complete TxDOT Calendar is on the intranet at <http://crossroads.org/pio/articles/calendar.htm>

## In Memoriam

**Brownwood District**  
 Doralene Montague  
 died December 4, 2003

**Paris District**  
 Billy M. Palmer  
 Engineering Technician  
 retired March 1995  
 died December 3, 2003

James Lawrence  
 Hunt County Maintenance Crew Chief  
 retired September 1998  
 died January 5, 2004

Bessie McCain  
 DE Secretary  
 retired May 1987  
 died January 19, 2004

Ben Casey  
 retired November 2003  
 died December 27, 2003

Jerry N. Norris  
 died February 12, 2004

**San Angelo District**  
 Juanita Townley  
 District Design  
 retired December 1978  
 died September 22, 2003

Domingo Pina  
 Sonora Maintenance  
 retired July 1976  
 died October 13, 2003

Carlton Massie  
 Junction residency  
 retired August 1977  
 died October 18, 2003

Saul Moya  
 Robert Lee Maintenance  
 retired September 1990  
 died October 30, 2003

**Fort Worth District**  
 Arthur Blackwell  
 Maintenance Technician  
 retired 1991  
 died February 2, 2004

**Traffic Division**  
 Harold Christian Hempel  
 died January 23, 2004

**Yoakum District**  
 Larry D. Rutherford  
 Engineer Technician  
 retired August 2003  
 died November 2, 2003

**Bryan District**  
 Kendal L. Mosley  
 Maintenance Sec. Supervisor  
 hired June 1993  
 died October 16, 2003

**District unknown**  
 Mary E. Shepard  
 died December 12, 2003

Woodrow C. Gibbs  
 died November 14, 2003

Jessie J. West  
 died November 6, 2003

Melba H. West  
 died October 29, 2003

Charles T. Hall  
 died October 13, 2003

Leonel Perez  
 Transportation Maintenance Specialist  
 hired January 1995  
 died January 25, 2004



# backtracks



It's hard to know if this wingless aircraft was stopped to fill its fuel tanks or just to draw a crowd. Also unknown for this month's **backtracks** is where and when the photo was taken. Given the age of the

cars, it was probably sometime before 1950. We're sure it's in Texas. If you have more information about this picture, contact Anne Cook at (512) 486-5838, or by e-mail at [acook@dot.state.tx.us](mailto:acook@dot.state.tx.us).

**Donna Swope**, General Services Division, was the first to identify that Operation Longhorn took place between Lometa and Lampasas in 1952. Additional information from **Howard Holland**, Brownwood director of operations, expanded on the TxDOT connection:

"... the photo on U.S. 183 is on the north side of Lampasas looking north. The TxDOT area and maintenance section is just out of the picture on the left side.

The troop movements were called Operation Longhorn and were in March and April 1952. They involved 115,000 troops and the longest convoy was reported as 50 miles in length. A historical marker is being constructed to be placed in Lometa city park. I identified the location and then **Mike Kopchick**, Lampasas maintenance supervisor, was able to identify the time and activity." ☆



**T**ransportation **NEWS** ☆

☆  
**Texas Department of Transportation**

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